Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (currently amended): A cannula assembly for use in a surgical procedure, which comprises:

a housing;

a cannula member defining a longitudinal axis, the cannula member defining a longitudinal opening therethrough for passage of a surgical instrument; ~~and~~

a sealing member having proximal and distal faces disposed within the housing, the sealing member extending across the longitudinal axis of the cannula member and having a predetermined shape prior to insertion of the instrument, the sealing member comprising a fabric, the sealing member having an hourglass shape defining an open aperture in an initial condition thereof for the receipt of the instrument and arranged so that insertion of the instrument causes the aperture of the sealing member to expand to an expanded condition thereof and resiliently contact the outer surface of the instrument to form a substantial seal therewith; and

a ring assembly positioned within the housing, the ring assembly including a first ring member and a second ring member positioned about the sealing member such that the sealing member is at least partially positioned between the first ring member and the second ring member, the first ring member being configured and dimensioned for engagement with the second ring member to inhibit relative movement therebetween.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 5 wherein the fabric of the sealing member comprises an elastic material and is arranged to expand upon engaging the instrument.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 5 wherein the sealing member includes a resilient material.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 7 wherein the fabric is compressed into the resilient material.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 8 wherein the resilient material is disposed within interstices defined by the fabric such that the resilient material is at least partially formed with the fabric in an integral manner.

Claim 10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 5 wherein the sealing member includes a coating to reduce friction between the seal member and the at least one surgical instrument.

Claim 12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (currently amended): The assembly of claim [[12]] 5 further comprising a zero seal in the housing ~~for preventing the~~ configured and dimensioned to substantially inhibit escape of insufflation gases ~~in the absence of an~~ absent the instrument.

Claims 14-16 (canceled).

Claim 17 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 11, wherein the coating comprises a hydrocyclosiloxane membrane prepared by a plasma polymerization process.

Claims 18-19 (canceled).

Claim 20 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 5, wherein the sealing member is non inflatable.

Claim 21 (new): The assembly of claim 5, wherein the first ring member and the second ring member are configured and dimensioned for engagement in snap-fit relation.

Claim 22 (new): The assembly of claim 5, wherein the first ring member is disposed adjacent the distal face of the sealing member, and the second ring member is disposed adjacent the proximal face of the sealing member.

Claim 23 (new): The assembly of claim 22, wherein the first ring member includes first attachment structure, and the second ring member includes second attachment

structure configured and dimensioned for engagement with the first attachment structure to facilitate connection of the first and second ring members.

Claim 24 (new): The assembly of claim 23, wherein at least one of the first and second attachment structures of the respective first and second ring members extends through the sealing member.

Claim 25 (new): The assembly of claim 24, wherein the sealing member includes at least one hole spaced outwardly from the aperture extending through the sealing member, the at least one hole being configured and dimensioned to receive the attachment structure extending through the sealing member.

Claim 26 (new): The assembly of claim 23, wherein the first attachment structure of the first ring member includes at least one post, and the second attachment structure of the second ring member includes at least one hole configured and dimensioned to receive the at least one post.

Claim 27 (new): The assembly of claim 23, wherein the first attachment structure of the first ring member includes at least one first post and at least one first hole, and the second attachment structure of the second ring member includes at least second post and at least one second hole, wherein the at least one first hole is configured and dimensioned to receive the at least one second post, and the at least one second hole is configured and dimensioned to receive the at least one first post.

Claim 28 (new): The assembly of claim 5, further including a dampening element secured to the ring assembly, the dampening element being adapted to minimize sound created upon contact between the ring assembly and the housing.

Claim 29 (new): The assembly of claim 28, wherein the dampening element is positioned between a surface of the ring member and a surface of the housing.

Claim 30 (new): The assembly of claim 29, wherein the dampening element is secured to the second ring member.

Claim 31 (new): The assembly of claim 5, wherein the first ring member and the second ring member are formed from a substantially rigid material.